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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics
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MOMI K MANGO

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Origin and Development

An outstanding new mango variety has been named "Momi K," in honor of its originator, Mrs. (Oliver) Ka Lei Momi Kinney. The original tree was grown from a seed planted by Mrs. Kinney in 1943 on the Oliver Kinney property in Waipahu, Oahu. This seed came from a large Indian-type mango fruit grown by H. P. Baldwin at Paia, Maui. The exact identity of the parent variety is not known.

The original Momi K mango tree at Waipahu came into bearing about 1953 and was first studied and evaluated by University of Hawaii horticulturists in 1957. The attractive color and exceptionally fine quality of the fruit were so impressive that several grafted trees were propagated for further trial. These grafted trees came into bearing within 4 years and have since produced moderate crops of high-quality fruits. Biennial bearing tendencies have not become apparent in either the original seedling tree or in grafted trees.

Because both quality and appearance of this new mango have been superior to many other varieties now grown in Hawaii, it was decided to name this promising new clonal variety "Momi K" and introduce it to the public.

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***General
Characteristics
and Evaluation***

New fruit varieties are inevitably evaluated in comparison with the best known standard varieties, in this case, Haden and Pirie. It is expected that Momi K will best suit the needs and tastes of those desiring a highly colored, mid-season ripening mango of better dessert quality than Haden. In a study by a mango taste panel at the University of Hawaii, Momi K rated well in overall quality, including flavor, texture, color, size, shape, and proportion of seed. The results of this test, comparing the fruit qualities of Momi K with those of 5 well established varieties, are summarized in Table 1. Momi K rated about equal to Pirie in fruit quality (flavor and texture) and similar to Haden in appearance (skin color). However, the general appearance of Momi K was much better than Pirie, while the fruit quality (texture and flavor) score was appreciably higher than Haden. The Pope variety named in 1960 was rated approximately equal to Momi K in fruit characteristics, although Pope appears to be somewhat more productive. The Joe Welch mango which has acquired a reputation for off-season bearing was rated about equal to Haden, while Zill, a Florida variety occasionally planted, was rated above Haden, but below Momi K, Pope, and Pirie.

***Tree and Fruit
Characteristics***

Tree: Medium in size, vigor, and productivity; considered to be a mid-season variety, fruits ripening in June and July; bearing pattern is moderate and regular; and fruit tends to set singly rather than in clusters. The tree is round-topped with strong crotches and is a well-shaped, desirable-type tree for either orchard culture or home-garden planting.

Fruit: Medium-sized, averaging about 10 oz. and 7.7 per cent seed; oblong to ovate-oblong; stalk inserted squarely; cavity slight to absent; shoulders unequal, ventral higher and broader than the dorsal; rounded, dorsal shoulder ending in a long curve; beak absent; sinus absent to slight; apex rounded to broadly pointed; skin smooth, medium-thick,

mimosa yellow* with a blush of blood red* on the shoulders often extending over 1/2 to 2/3 of the surface of the fruit; abundant, small lenticels flush with surface of the skin; flesh firm, fiberless, cadmium orange*; quality very good to excellent; a small amount of very short fiber adheres to the seed; and the seeds are monoembryonic.

Distribution

Grafted trees or scions of Momi K mango are being distributed directly to bona fide commercial fruit-tree nurseries and State Department of Agriculture facilities on Oahu, as well as on Maui, Kauai, Molokai, and Hawaii insofar as current plant quarantine regulations permit. Distribution was started prior to the official naming of the variety so that trees can be made available to the public as soon as possible. The Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station as a continuing policy will not propagate or distribute additional trees of this new variety in competition with commercial nurseries.

*From *Horticulture Colour Chart*. British Colour Council. (London: Harry Stone & Co.), 1942. Mimosa yellow, p. 143; blood red, p. 166; Cadmium orange, p. 8.

Table 1. Summary of taste panel scores on six mango varieties grown
at Poamoho Experimental Farm, Oahu.

| Name | Flavor | Texture | Skin Color | Flesh Color | Size & Shape | Proportion of Seed to Flesh | |
|------------------------|--------|---------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------|
| | | | | | | 5 | 100 |
| Highest Possible Score | 35 | 30 | 20 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 100 |
| Pope | 26.5 | 24.1 | 12.6 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 4.5 | 75.6 |
| Momi K | 25.7 | 22.5 | 14.0 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 4.4 | 73.3 |
| Pirie | 29.1 | 22.3 | 9.2 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 69.9 |
| Zill | 23.6 | 18.8 | 11.9 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 4.2 | 65.0 |
| Haden | 17.7 | 17.6 | 15.3 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 2.9 | 60.6 |
| Joe Welch | 17.2 | 18.9 | 11.3 | 3.2 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 58.9 |